

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A catheter includes a proximal shaft having a relatively high rigidity, a distal shaft provided on a front portion of the proximal shaft so as to be in fluid communication with proximal shaft and having a rigidity lower than that of the proximal shaft, a hub mounted to the vicinity of a rear end of the proximal shaft and configured to allow a pressure applying apparatus to be mounted to the hub, and a balloon provided on a front portion of the distal shaft so as to be in fluid communication with the distal shaft and configured to receive pressure applied from the hub. The catheter also includes a guide wire lumen ~~for allowing a guide wire to be inserted through the guide wire lumen. The guide wire lumen has a distal side aperture positioned on the front side from a front end of the balloon and a proximal side aperture positioned on the rear side from a rear end of the balloon.~~ In this catheter, at least a front portion of the distal shaft is configured as a grooved portion having a groove or grooves.